



# Four talons: The War Between Tribes



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## Chapter 1 by Kittens Cookies

Cinder perched on a cliff high above the Firetalon kingdom. She heard screams and roars come from below. Ash's workers were at it again. Ever since Ash became leader of the Firetalon tribe, he gathered up workers to torment and punish the slaves, which he hated, as Ash believed that any dragon that was not a member of the Firetalon tribe was a disgrace. Ash was a strict ruler who rained tyranny on the Firetalon dragons. he ordered that no fire dragon was to associate with any dragon from a different tribe, and only his workers could associate with them. Of course, by associate, he meant execute, by the looks of it, because when Cinder looked over the cliff, she could see the lifeless corpses of Watertalon, Earthtalon and Skytalon dragons lying in small pools of blood. She saw the workers leave the ravine she was looking down into, as the remaining dragons worked quickly, dedicated to their work. Ash had wanted to ban slavery from his tribe completely, as he didn't want their "Wholesome land to be contaminated with dirty, lowlife talons that didn't belong to their tribe,". But one of the rules in the four talons code of honor was that any prisoners of war were to be taken as slaves. Cinder cringed at the thought of the code, as well as Ash's rule. She had mated with a dragon from another tribe, a Skytalon, and had been able to hide her pregnancy for so long- little did she know that she was about to give birth.

Cinder suddenly let out a yelp. She felt it- her dragonlet was ready to come out. Far away, she saw a sivery white spot soaring towards her, getting closer until it could be made out. It was Soaring, the Skytalon she had mated with. "What's the mater?" He said. "I heard your cry from the forests of Harmony." But Cinder couldn't speak. She was laying on the ground, wailing. Suddenly, she stopped. Her head swiveled toward Soaring as she uttered these two words:

"I'm pregnant."

Soaring swiveled his head around and saw three Firetalon medics soaring toward Cinder. "Ok, listen. The head medic said you're pregnant. You better go! And so he soared away, leaving cinder alone. The main medic rushed toward Cinder. "It's alright sweetie. You're pregnant. Don't worry." Cinder stared into the dragon's brown eye. "How could you tell?" The medic looked back at her warmly.

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"Because a mother always knows." Suddenly, Cinder let out another yelp. the dragonlet was coming.

"Oh, look at her!" Phoenix said as she cradled the small dragon in her arms. Ash, who had followed his partner Phoenix, looked down at the baby dragon, then at his daughter. "Cinder, this dragon is not full Firetalon. You have mated with a Skytalon. What happened? Was it one of the prisoners? Did he make you swear not to tell? Which one was it?" Cinder looked up at her father. "He was not a prisoner, and he was the love of my life." Ash looked sternly at Cinder, as if she was a prisoner. "Well, you have broken the code. You must be executed, along with your Daughter." But it was too late. Cinder lay there, silent and lifeless. She was dead.

Phoenix looked up at Ash. "I will take care of her, I promise. Please spare her." Phoenix looked at the helpless little reddish orange bundle, and it's brown eyes stared back at her. "Please spare Flame."

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